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Subject: OPA Daily Digest 7/21/14

OPA Daily Digest for 7/21/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.); **Sen. Roy Blunt** (Mo.); **Rep. William Lacy Clay** (Mo.); **Rep. Ann Wagner** (Mo.) – Letter – 7/18/14: West Lake Landfill. Due: 8/1/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 7/9/14: Questions about isolation barrier project at West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Blythe Bernhard – 7/21/14: Questions about letter to EPA Region 7 from Congressional delegation regarding a project timeline for work at the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis American – Civil Rights and environmental activism linked in upcoming talk by internationally known pastor – 7/21/14 - Religion and the environment will merge when the Jewish Community Relations Council presents “Make a Difference: Environmental Action for your Home and House of Worship.”

http://www.stlamERICAN.com/news/local_news/article_c5f795ca-10d7-11e4-a320-001a4bcf887a.html

Washington Missourian – City, DNR Broker Deal on Landfill – 7/19/14 - The city and Missouri Department of Natural Resources have brokered a deal that will save a significant amount of money and not require the relocation of 45,000 cubic yards of waste at the Washington Landfill. City council members approved the agreement following a special meeting Tuesday afternoon. http://www.emissourian.com/local_news/article_76c8afee-0eb0-11e4-a27a-001a4bcf887a.html

Neosho, Mo., Daily News - Issue draws opposition – 7/19/14 - The ‘Right to Farm’ bill, Amendment 1 on the Aug. 5, ballot, has gained some opposition in Southwest Missouri. Sponsored by Dist. 160 State Rep. Bill Reiboldt, the ballot language for Amendment 1 reads: <http://www.neoshodailynews.com/article/20140719/News/140718809#ixzz387Gnjcqz>

WNAX Radio, Yankton, S.D. – Report critical of Iowa water quality – 7/21/14 - A report from the Iowa Policy Project (IPP) is critical of the state’s current strategies to fight water pollution. I-P-P founder David Osterberg says the 2013 Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) relies heavily on voluntary conservation practices and does not require water quality monitoring to determine if nutrient pollution is actually being reduced. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-report-critical-of-iowa-water-quality/>

Union of Concerned Scientists – New Analysis Finds that 10 U.S. States Could Provide Abundant Agricultural By-Products for Low-Carbon Fuel and Electricity – 7/21/14 - U.S. agriculture could provide up to 155 million tons of crop residues and 60 millions tons of manure to produce clean fuels and electricity in 2030 that would help cut the nation's oil use and phase out the use of coal, according to a new analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/agricultural-residues-0426.html

Des Moines Register – Your 2 Cents (Reader Opinions) – 7/19/14 - Yay, this year's Dead Zone is shaping up to be only the size of Connecticut! What a small price to pay for protecting the sacred right of Iowa farmers to send their nutrient pollution downstream with no regulations to annoy them. Let's all agree not to worry until the zone is the size of Illinois.— Sarcastic in Ames <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/07/20/cents-worth-cents-readers-comments-online/12905291/>

Iowa Public Radio – Deploying Drones to Get an Overview of Factory Farms – 7/19/14 - An independent journalist says he's found a way around the so-called "ag-gag" laws by flying drones over large livestock operations to document animal welfare problems and pollution. Will Potter, a Washington D.C.-based author and blogger, recently raised \$75,000 on Kickstarter to buy the drones and other equipment to investigate animal agriculture in the U.S. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/deploying-drones-get-overview-factory-farms>

Des Moines Register – Obradovich: Climate Change PAC Targets Senate Race – 7/19/14 - Hedge-fund billionaire Tom Steyer says he used to spend time around the dining table with his four children, debating the issues of the century. "We'd sit there and say, 100 years in the future when you look back, what are going to be the issues where you're going to say, like, wow, you were on the wrong side of that issue." <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/kathie-obradovich/2014/07/20/obradovich-climate-change-pac/12889731/>

WHO-TV Channel 13, Des Moines – Unfinished Hog Confinement is Already Raising a Stink – 7/18/14 - Drive down just about any rural road in Iowa and eventually, you'll see a hog confinement. Such facilities, sometimes called CAFOs, handle a large amount of hog manure and can emit an unpleasant odor. Not everyone is excited to see them go up in their neighborhood. [http://whotv.com/2014/07/18/agribusiness-unfinished-hog-confinement-is-already-raising-a-stink/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+wholocalnews+\(WHOTv.com+-+Iowa+headlines\)](http://whotv.com/2014/07/18/agribusiness-unfinished-hog-confinement-is-already-raising-a-stink/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+wholocalnews+(WHOTv.com+-+Iowa+headlines))

Spencer (Iowa) Daily Reporter – Storm Lake steps into carbon footprint spotlight – 7/18/14 - The few, the passionate. Monday night, Storm Lake hosted one of only two field hearings in the state on a newly-announced Environmental Protection Agency proposal to cut carbon emissions from power plants, thought to be a key cause of climate change. <http://www.spencerdailyreporter.com/story/2102233.html>

Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette – Honey Creek Resort honored for recycling – 7/18/14 - Honey Creek Resort State Park on Lake Rathbun has been selected as having the best government recycling program by the Iowa Recycling Association. Todd Coffelt, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Parks Bureau, gave credit to the resort's management company, Central Group, for establishing a culture of recycling and environmental stewardship. http://globegazette.com/honey-creek-resort-honored-for-recycling/article_f6f17196-3906-541e-8592-7a22d9d9b86a.html

Maryville (Mo.) Daily Forum – A View FromThe Country: Farmers are important to us, but should they be enshrined? – 7/18/14 - Last week, I had the opportunity to do some driving. My trip took me through much of Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan. It was a beautiful drive. What I saw along the highways and byways was a lush and verdant land covered with the product of rich land and seemingly prosperous farmers. http://www.maryvilledailyforum.com/opinion/article_b687fcb8-0e90-11e4-ba78-001a4bcf887a.html

Forbes – The Surprising Reasons Why Lowering CO2 Emissions Will Drive Our Electricity Bills Down, Not Up – 7/21/14 - If the customer wants clean energy, he'll have to pay for it, right? Wrong. There's actually no premium attached to low-carbon power, state utility regulators heard last week at their annual conference in Dallas. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelkrancer/2014/07/21/report-lowering-co2-emissions-will-drive-electric-bills-down-not-up-surprised/>

Lincoln Star-Journal – 2014 Nonpoint Source Project Proposals Invited – 7/18/14 - The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) invites proposals for funding under the Nebraska Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program authorized through Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act as administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. http://journalstar.com/news/local/legal_notices/nonpoint-source-project-proposals-invited/article_00a94ab6-6401-54d1-b769-cde72b7b40cc.html

Fremont (Neb.) Tribune – DEQ Awards Grants – 7/21/14 - The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality recently announced the awarding of \$4,296,581 in grants through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund. http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/deq-awards-grants/article_55f158b2-809d-5b58-9a88-c8fbd7d3cc7b.html

WIBW-TV Topeka, Kan. – Milford Lake Remains Under Blue-Green Algae Warning – 7/21/14 - Milford Lake will remain under a blue green algae warning following test results

from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This week's results came back with higher cell counts of blue green algae across Milford Lake with four out of the five locations tested showing cell counts above the warning level. <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Milford-Lake-Remains-Under-Blue-Green-Algae-Warning-267893141.html>

Kansas City Star – Pipeline Company Faced \$270K in Penalties – 7/21/14 - The company responsible for a recent natural gas pipeline accident that spewed a hazardous substance outside a small town in eastern Kansas has faced more than \$270,000 in fines for problems elsewhere along its pipelines since 2006, according to federal records. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/article765531.html#storylink=cpy>

Redding (Cal.) Record Searchlight – Report warns of diesel fumes' risk – 7/19/14 - Leticia DeCaigny straps a portable air-sampling device to the side of a neighbor's deck. For two days, the small gray box with what looks like a chimney on top will gather evidence of pollution from diesel engines. "It's like a human lung," sucking in air as a person would breathe, DeCaigny says as she pushes some buttons that set the device whirring. <http://www.redding.com/news/wire-news/report-warns-of-diesel-fumes-risks>

Newton Kansan – Left Behind – 7/19/14 - Harvey County parks are a popular place to spend a lazy summer afternoon. Families relax at picnic tables, go boating on the lake, or sit on the bank and fish. While these local public recreation areas are clean and safe, other sites around the country may not be. <http://www.thekansan.com/article/20140719/News/140719349#ixzz387teKWWi>

Forbes – Wind Turbines Could Rule Tornado Alley – 7/19/14 - The reason that Pilger, Nebraska was so badly hit by tornados last month is the same reason that wind is a great energy source in Tornado Alley. The wind blows hard and often. So wind energy should be the major part of a sustainable energy mix in this region of the United States. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2014/07/19/wind-turbines-could-rule-tornado-alley/>

The Courier-News, Russellville, Ark. – Get the lead out, please - 7/21/14 - I received a couple of emails the other day stating that the nation's last primary lead smelting plant (those guys that produce lead for ammunition) was shuttered at the end of 2013. It was a back door effort by our nation's current liberal administration for gun control, the email stated. http://www.couriernews.com/view/full_story/25471875/article-Get-the-lead-out--please

AG Week – Farmers, conservationists split on Waters of the U.S. rule – 7/21/14 - Conservation groups are mounting a campaign in defense of the Environmental Protection Agency's Waters of the U.S. rule. Meanwhile, farm leaders and Republicans in the House move bills to try to stop EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from proceeding with the rule on the grounds that it expands jurisdiction into bodies of water on farms. <http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/23722/>

Aurora (Mo.) Advertiser – Mayor Praises Ackley for Memorial Efforts – 7/19/14 - Mike Randall, city manager, outlined for the council a proposal he received from Missouri Department of Transportation regarding the intersection of Business 60 (Church Street) and Highway 39 (Elliott Avenue). The property at the northwest corner was involved in a situation with the Environmental Protection Agency and Missouri Department of Natural Resources some years back due gasoline leaking into the soil nearby. <http://www.auroraadvertiser.net/article/20140717/News/140719049>

KSNT-TV Topeka, Kan. – Feds Issue Warning on R22 Knock-Offs – 7/18/14 - A refrigerant called R22 has enjoyed widespread use for decades in the U.S. as an essential ingredient for residential air conditioners. But R22 harms the ozone layer and is being gradually phased out. <http://kansasfirstnews.com/2014/07/18/feds-issue-warning-on-r22-knock-offs/>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/21/14 – Civil Rights Event, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/23/14 – Senior Leadership Retreat for Regional Administrators, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/24/14 – National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

7/28/14 – Tribal Visit, Kickapoo Tribe, Horton, Kan. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

7/29/14 – Tribal Visit, Winnebago Tribe, Winnebago, Neb., Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

7/29-30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Niobrara, Neb. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

7/31/14 – Missouri Environmental & Energy Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

8/6/14 - St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

8/11/14 – Clean Power Plan Forum with Utility Executives, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Mary Peterson, 7882

8/13/14 – Iowa Association of Business & Industry, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

8/20/14 – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

DRA:

7/21/14 – Civil Rights Event, Washington, DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/23-7/24/14 Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

8/20/14 – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

7/22/2014 – Participating in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources 111(d) kick off meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

7/21/14 – Attend West Lake Landfill Community Advisory Group meeting in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

8/18-21/14 – Purdue Pesticide Program Certification and Training Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact: Douglas Jones, 7592

Chris Whitley

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